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Confirmation of the position of the likely type-locality of *Chalcomitra rubescens stangerii*

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Moore (1995) argued convincingly in favour of Shelley's and Amadon's suggestions that the type-locality of the subspecies of the Green-throated Sunbird *Chalcomitra rubescens stangerii* (Jardine) should be taken as Bioko (formerly Fernando Po), Equatorial Guinea, and not the River Niger, Nigeria (Shelley 1876-1880, Amadon 1953). The original designation probably arose as the bird had been collected by the 1841 expedition to the River Niger.

Because the collection of the type was discussed during an account of T.R.H. Thomson's visit with C. G. Roscher to Robert Jamieson's settlement near Bassa-pu (3°43'N, 8°41'E), Bioko (Allen & Thomson 1848), Moore suggested that the type-locality could have been this settlement. However, because the account was assumed to follow a chronological order, she thought that the visit to the settlement had taken place in April 1842, after Dr Stanger had left the island with the specimen in 1841. Moore (pers. comm.) now considers that the assumption about chronological order is unjustified and that Thomson only visited Jamieson's settlement once, so the description of the collection of the bird does refer to the shooting of the type specimen. The settlement, which Thomson and Roscher reached by sea, was stated as being at Shark River near Bassa-Pu, on the northwest coast, not far from Clarence [= Malabo], but Moore was uncertain of its precise position. However, Jamieson's settlement was at John Beecroft's house (*hacienda*) at "New Town" and is illustrated in Martin del

Molino (1993, Fig. 19). From this illustration, Dr Jordi Mas (pers. comm.) determined the precise location of New Town as being at the mouth of the river still known locally as the Rio Tiburones (= sharks), near Basupu (3°43'N, 8°41'E), c. 1.5 km northeast of Punta Beecrof (as spelt on current maps: 1:50,000 Instituto Geográfica Nacional de España, 1980, 1981) and 2 km due west of the southern end of Malabo international airport. The river is marked on current maps as the River Lopese (or Lopesa) and is shown as river no. 23 in the map of McCall *et al.* (1998), who nevertheless also referred to it as the River Tiburones.

On 25 April 1999, Dr Mas and a local guide, Salvador Nabacolle, escorted me to the site, which I estimated from a Global Positioning System (GPS) as being at 3°45'N, 8°41'E. No remains of the settlement, illustrated as being at the end of a spit of land on the west side of the river and described as being on a small promontory (Allen & Thomson 1848), were discernible. There was, however, an overgrown area of formerly cultivated land nearby and it was probably here that in October or November 1841 T. R. H. Thomson collected the bird (perhaps from a pawpaw tree *Carica papaya*, Moore 1995, 2000 and *in litt.*). It was later described as *Nectarinia stangerii* (= *C. rubescens stangerii*) after Dr William Stanger, a member of the 1841 Niger expedition who brought the specimen back to England and whose life is summarised by Moore (2000).

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